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Sen. Laura Toy welcomes Franklin High School student for State of the State Address

LANSING – While high school students across Michigan fielded pleas from civics teachers to watch the governor deliver her annual State of the State address Wednesday, one lucky Franklin High School junior had a front row seat.

Chris Schotten won an essay contest sponsored by state Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District, to earn the honor. Chris is the son of Charles and Susan Schotten of Livonia.

“It was just an incredible experience,” said Schotten who sat feet from the governor as she delivered her speech to a joint session of the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives.

As part of Sen. Laura Toy’s “If I were a Senator” contest, students were asked to share their ideas on how to make our state a better place to live in one of three areas. Schotten’s essay about how to improve Michigan’s economy impressed Sen. Toy and her staff.

“It was a really insightful essay,” Sen. Toy said. “He is obviously a very intelligent young man and I think he has a bright future ahead of him.”

The State of the State address is given each year by the governor to outline the agenda and priorities for the coming year. Each senator is allowed one guest.

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Editor’s Note: A photo of Sen. Laura Toy and Chris Schotten is available on the Senate Majority photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Toy/Toy.htm>